N. Theo. Semy. March 1st 1841.

To the Soc. of Enquiry
of Princeton Seminary.—

Dear Brethren,

Your communication, which came to hand in due time, was gratefully received by our Society, and measures adopted for the renewal, and continuance of our correspondence. We also feel the great importance of such an interchange of thought and feeling, and the advantages which may result to our respective Societies, in the near and interesting relation in which we stand to each other. We know not the cause of why the correspondence between our Societies was suspended— perhaps from mistake or negligence in our former members. The fact has been noticed by some of our members, and was about to be proposed to Society for consideration, when your letter was received. The Seminaries to which we have the honour to belong, bear a more interesting relation to each other at the present time, than at any former period: they are not only the institutions of our Church preparing her sons for the office of the Ministry, their Professors labouring together in the great struggle, through which our Church has lately passed, and they now stand as institutions devoted to the promotion of truth and order. We therefore can cheerfully unite with you in feelings of gratitude, and praise to the King and Head of the Church, for the providential care which he has exercised over our beloved Zion— for the unanimity of sentiment and feeling which now exist among her members; and for the facilities afforded her, for puting forth her efforts for the propogation of the Gospel, in the way prescribed by herself, and in the way which she believes most in accordance with the word of God.

But without further noticing this subject, we proceed to answer your interrogatories. As it respects our Seminary, we are sorry to say that the external marks of prosperity are not so flattering as at former times. We commenced the present session with an unusually small number of students — there being but eighteen. Many of those who are looking forward to the Ministry in this section of the Country, do not appear to be aware of the advantages to be derived from prosecuting their studies in a Theo. Seminary. Others, perhaps overlook the importance of patronizing, and encouraging their own institution. But as our Professors at present appear to have the full confidence of the churches we hope soon to see a deeper interest taken in its welfare — Prof. Green is very popular as a Prof., and already has gained a high standing in the religious, and literary community. Our society holds its meetings on the first Monday of every month, which we are happy to state are observed with more than usual interest. The great cause of Missions is, we believe at present, receiving a deeper and more serious attention, than it has for several preceeding sessions. We know of none among our small number, who have positively determined, to seek a foreign field of labour: Yet we believe that several, in relation to this great question, are seriously asking "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" who will probably be sent for hence to the Gentiles, to take the place of some of their former Brethren, who have already fallen in the field, and are gone to receive their reward.

So far therefore as this Spirit is revived among us. the tone of our piety is deepened: for in Christians sufficiently enlightened vital Godliness, and the Spirit of Missions are inseperable. We have yet however much cause for lamentation over our coldness, and indifference in the cause of our master; And can use with peculiar

appropriateness the Prayer of the Prophet: O! Lord revive thy work! The State of the Church in this section of Country at present is to be lamented. Religion in our cities, and also in the surrounding Country is in a languishing Condition. In very few Churches have the reviving influences of Gods Spirit been experienced during the past winter. The Presbyterian Church is now placed in a very critical situation - having declared to the world in her last conflict - that she contended for the truth, and now possessed it in its purity - Corresponding fruits are therefore expected - The Church that boasts of the purity of its doctrines, and does not possess a high Standard of piety, and a zeal that will lead her to make vigorous exertions for the Spread of the Gospel, is always looked upon with Suspicion. As the stream never rises above its fountain - we cannot expect in the present State of the Church that many will devote themselves to the work of Foreign Missions and even the few that do go out will go with piety insufficient for such an arduous undertaking. The several Boards of our Church as now organized we believe meet with general approbation with the Churches of this Synod - as well as of Synods more west; And but for the present low State of religion, and the embarrassed State of the Country, would be more liberally patronized. As it respects the general progress of truth in this immediate vicinity, its march seems to be onward. But in the great valley of the Mississippi, at the head of which we are situated - the contrary seems to be the fact. Mormonism, Campbellitism, Universalism, Popery, and every species of Infidelity, and Immorality, is rapidly spreading. The Ministers of our Church we believe have not been sufficiently engaged in combatting these systems of error which threaten our institutions - Civil and Religious.

those especially who intend to labour in the west, should prepare to wage a war against all these enemies of Christianity - but our time of meeting has arrived. We would be happy to hear soon from you again and that you may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work and made able Ministers of the New Testament: is the prayer of your Brethren in Christ. In behalf of the Soc. of Inq. C. P. Marshall. Cor. Sec.

Society of Inquiry
Theo. Seminary
Princeton N.J.

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